

Message Text

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14-10

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 AGR-10 EUR-12 ARA-10 NEA-09 EA-10

OIC-02 COME-00 EB-07 SP-02 NSC-05 CIEP-02 TRSE-00

SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 L-02 /108 W

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R 141623Z MAR 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1380

UNCLAS GENEVA 1772

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECE, UN

SUBJECT: ECE - COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS

SUMMARY:

1. COMMITTEE SET UP SMALL STEERING GROUP TO REVIEW WORKING METHODS SUBSIDIARY BODIES, APPROVED PROGRAM OF WORK AND PRIORITIES AND CARRIED OUT EXPERT DISCUSSION ON BEEF MARKET AND SITUATION OUTLOOK IN EUROPE. END SUMMARY.

2. TWENTY EIGHT MEMBER COUNTRIES PARTICIPATED IN THE COMMITTEE SESSION. ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, ISRAEL, JAPAN AND NEW ZEALAND PARTICIPATED UNDER ARTICLE II OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE. IN ADDITION FIVE INTERGOVERNMENTAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, THREE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, REPRESENTATIVES OF CMEA AND EC PARTICIPATED IN THE MEETING. ELECTED M. BESSON (SWITZERLAND) CHAIRMAN AND K. KAZARECK (HUNGARY) AS VICE-CHAIRMAN.

3. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION REGARDING THE WORKING METHODS OF THE COMMITTEE'S SUBSIDIARY BODIES. THE WORK OF THE GROUPS FOR THE MOST PART HAD FOLLOWED THE SAME GENERAL PATTERN FOR ALMOST 25 YEARS. IT WAS FELT THAT AN INDEPTH EXAMINATION SHOULD

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BE MADE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE WORK THAT IS BEING

CARRIED OUT IN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS. THE COMMITTEE DECIDED THAT A SMALL AD HOC GROUP, REFERRED TO AS A STEERING GROUP SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED. THE STEERING GROUP IS TO CONSIST OF THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN, THE FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, A. GANEV OF BULGARIA AND P. HALIMI OF FRANCE. THE STEERING GROUP WOULD MEET LATER IN THE YEAR AND WOULD MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE ACTED UPON BY THE COMMITTEE AT ITS TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION. THOUGH NOT MENTIONED IN ESTABLISHING THIS SMALL GROUP, UNDER ECE RULES, ANY MEMBER COUNTRY COULD PARTICIPATE.

4. THE COMMITTEE APPROVED, WITH ONLY SLIGHT VARIATIONS FROM THAT PROPOSED IN DOCUMENT AGRI/R.18, THE PROGRAM OF WORK AND PRIORITIES FOR 1975/1976 AND FOR THE PERIOD 1976 TO 1980. TOBACCO WAS SELECTED AS THE PROJECT OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO THE LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES OF THE ECE REGION.

5. THE CONSENSUS OF THE DISCUSSION ON "PROSPECTS OF THE EUROPEAN MARKET FOR BEEF AND VEAL UNTIL 1980" APPEARED TO BE THAT THE NET IMPORT DEFICIT FOR BEEF WOULD NARROW SUBSTANTIALLY. MOST OF THE SUGGESTED REVISIONS PUSHED CONSUMPTION LEVELS UP AND PRODUCTION EVEN HIGHER THAN THOSE PROJECTED IN AGRI/R.27. MOST OF THE EAST EUROPEAN EXPORTING COUNTRIES COMPLAINED ABOUT THE CURRENT EC IMPORT POLICIES. DURING THE DISCUSSION, THE EC CRITICIZED THE SECRETARIAT'S REPORT STATING THAT IT HADN'T CONSIDERED RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND POINTING OUT THE FACT THAT THE CURRENT SITUATION WAS AT LEAST PARTLY DUE TO THE CYCLICAL EFFECT OF CATTLE PRODUCTION. THE EC FELT THAT PROJECTED CONSUMPTION GROWTH WOULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY HIGHER THAN THE LEVEL PUBLISHED IN THE ECE REPORT AND WOULD BE MORE NEARLY IN LINE WITH THE GROWTH IN PROJECTED PRODUCTION.

6. THE COMMITTEE DECIDED TO HOLD ITS NEXT MEETING IN GENEVA 8-12 MARCH, 1976. DALE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, CONSULTANTS, MEATS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975GENEVA01772
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750091-0029
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750351/aaaabtkf.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JUN 2003 by BalzMJ>; APPROVED <02 MAR 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECE - COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS SUMMARY
TAGS: EAGR, ECE, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006